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SAITO TETSUO****(54) PREPARATION OF OPTICALLY ACTIVE AMINOALCOHOL DERIVATIVE****(57) Abstract:**

**PURPOSE:** To advantageously prepare the subject optically active compound in a high purity by reducing the aliphatic ketone group of a novel propane-2-one derivative corresponding to the objective compound with a microorganism, etc., capable of reducing the group into a hydroxyl group having a desired steric configuration.

**CONSTITUTION:** The aliphatic ketone group of a novel substance of formula I ( $R_1$  is an arbitrarily substitutable phenol, naphthyl or indole;  $R_2$  is

benzyloxycarbonyl arbitrarily partially substituted) is reduced with a microorganism such as Rhodotorula SP ATCC 20254 or Saccharomyces.sake association No.7 capable of reducing the ketone group into a hydroxyl group having a desired steric configuration or an enzymatic product thereof to provide the objective optically active compound of formula III capable of being readily converted into an optically active compound of formula II useful as a  $\beta$ -adrenergic blocking agent from the optically inactive substance as the raw material in an extremely high yield under reaction conditions of the ordinary temperature and the ordinary pressure.

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